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FLORIDA | Board of Optometry

MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2015

Teleconference

Department of Health

4042 Bald Cypress Way

Tallahassee, FL 32399-3257



Timothy Underhill, OD

Chair

Stuart Kaplan, OD

Vice-Chair

Joseph Lesho

Program Operations Administrator

1 **General Board Business started: 12:36 p.m.**

2
3 I. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Underhill, Chair, at approximately 12:36 p.m. Those present for all or part of the
4 meeting included the following:
5

6 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

7 Timothy Underhill, OD Chair
8 Stuart Kaplan, OD, Vice Chair
9 Christopher King, OD
10 Tamara Maule, OD
11 Clarence R. Presnell, R.Ph.
12 Carl Spear, OD
13

STAFF PRESENT:

Joseph Lesho, Program Operations Administrator
Michele Jackson, Regulatory Supervisor
Savada Knight, Regulatory Specialist II
Zohre Bahrayni, PhD, Management Analyst – Psychometrician
Ashley Falls, Government Operations Consultant II

14
15 **BOARD COUNSEL:**

16 Diane Guillemette, Assistant Attorney General
17 Office of Attorney General
18

19 **ALSO PRESENT:**

20 Jack Terry, OD, PhD, National Board of Examiners in Optometry
21 John Griffin, Esq., Florida Optometric Association
22

23 *Please note the minutes reflect the actual order agenda items were discussed and may differ from the agenda outline. AUDIO from*
24 *this meeting can be found online: <http://floridasoptometry.gov/meeting-information/past-meetings>*
25

26 **II. DISCUSSION**

27
28 **a. Florida Board of Optometry Laws and Rules Examination**
29

30 Dr. Bahrayni stated that the board agreed to outsource the Laws and Rules examination. She was unsuccessful in finding
31 testing companies due to the small candidate number and big companies were not willing to take over the administration of
32 the exam. She further explained that the department found a vendor to provide the Laws and Rules examination which will
33 be administered by the NBEO.
34

35 Dr. Underhill addressed Dr. Terry and asked if the exam can be taken online or can the candidate take the exam from a
36 central location?
37

38 Dr. Terry stated the exam is offered with a great deal of variability, the questions are rotated. The candidates can't have a
39 pre determine answered sheet. Every exam is unique. The links are available to each states laws and rules and including the
40 Florida exam.
41

42 Dr. Underhill expressed concerns about anyone could sit for the exam and take it. How are they identified and verified?
43

44 Dr. Bahrayni stated that the examination was taken in person in the past.
45

46 Dr. Underhill felt uncomfortable about the security system would be going to an unsecure system.
47

48 Dr. Terry explained that the candidate must have the OE tracker number.
49

50 Dr. Underhill expressed feeling uncomfortable that the secure system would be going to an unsecure system.
51

52 Dr. Bahrayni addressed Dr. Terry and asked if the organization can work with other to administer the exam.
53

54 Dr. Terry explained that the organization has a relationship with Pearson Vue; they can administer Part II (PAM exam).
55 The cost is \$150 to \$175 per person .The most important concepts is the electronic signature specific to the individual
56 candidate. The exam requires a tremendous amount of effort to get a passing score. This process is time consuming.
57

58 Dr. Underhill expressed concerns of the security of the exam. If the candidate can pay another person to take the exam?

1 Dr. Maule agreed with Dr. Underhill about the security of the exam.

2
3 Dr. Bahrayni asked Dr. Terry if the exam can be added to Pearson Vue?

4
5 Dr. Terry will contact Pearson Vue to see if they are will to extend the contract to accommodate this exam.

6
7 Dr. Bahrayni explained that the Department can work with Dr. Terry and Pearson Vue to allow the candidates to go to the
8 vendor site.

9
10 Dr. Terry explained that other states offer closed-book exams, the same day the candidate takes Part III.

11
12 Dr. Underhill asked if the candidate are there the same day taking the exam and don't pass, will they have to travel to the
13 facility again?

14
15 Dr. Kaplan asked if the initial cost of the exam is \$100, why is there an additional cost of \$175-\$200 to what the candidate
16 is paying?

17
18 Dr. Terry stated that he was not aware of the current fee the department charge.

19
20 Dr. Bahrayni asked if they charged per person or by the hour.

21
22 Dr. Terry explained that the minimum fee time is a 4 hour block. How many candidates seek licensure per year?

23
24 Dr. Bahrayni then explained 110-130 candidates; the only other option will closed book exam.

25
26 Dr. Terry asked if the exam is closed-book, how they can verify if the candidates reviewed the materials?

27
28 Dr. Kaplan explained that his concern is the security of the exam. He also said that more information is needed before a
29 decision can be made.

30
31 Dr. Maule asked can the exam be combined in conjunction with Part III, and if the candidates fail it can they take the exam
32 at a different location?

33
34 Dr. Terry will contact Pearson Vue they can. He also stated that candidates that are present for Part III can receive their
35 scores the administration. If they failed the exam, they can take a break and come back for a second time. The passing rate
36 is high.

37
38 Dr. Bahrayni stated that the passing rate for the Florida Laws and Rules exam is 100%.

39
40 Dr. Presnell stated that he feels comfortable with it.

41
42 Dr. Terry stated this is likelihood for success, and he will contact Pearson Vue. He also asked if they are comfortable with
43 administering the exam at NBEO facility, checking the candidate's identity, and have cameras watching the examination
44 room?

45
46 Dr. Underhill asked how many times per year is Part III administered? He is also concerned with the candidates taking the
47 exam in one place. How can they accommodate the candidates who already passed Part III of the exam and only need the
48 Laws and Rules exam?

49
50 Dr. Terry explained that Part III is administered Monday-Friday from August 1st-April 30th and two days a week during
51 May-July, 250 days per year for testing. The other candidates would have to travel to Charlotte to take the exam.

52
53 Dr. Presnell left at 1:09 pm.

54
55 Dr. Underhill asked how much time is allowed for the candidates to take the exam ?

56
57 Dr. Bahrayni explained that there are 25 exam questions and the candidates have 1 hour to complete the exam
58

1 Dr. Underhill stated that the only plausible way would be to all the candidates to take the exam on the NBEO campus.

2
3 Dr. Kaplan asked how long this takes to be implemented will.

4
5 Dr. Bahrayni stated the latest will be July.

6
7 Dr. Underhill asked if the board will continue to have control of the content of the exam.

8
9 Dr. Bahrayni explained they will be working with consultants from the department and the Board members are welcome to
10 attend.

11
12 Dr. Underhill Motion to allow NBEO to admin and develop exam at facility during part III and/or needed separately made
13 by Dr. Kaplan and Seconded by Dr. Maule.

14
15 Dr. Kaplan added stipulation to allow the board to maintain control of the content of the examination.

16
17 Dr. Underhill accepted the amendment.

18
19 Board Counsel Guillemette explained that the Rule states the exam is developed by the Florida Department of Health. The
20 board approval is a different standard than what is proposed. She then asked how the process was in the past.

21
22 Dr. Bahrayni explained that in the past they would meet with licensed optometrist consultants, exam committee every 1.5
23 years or as needed, prepared new forms after the meeting and works with vendor and explains the process and continue the
24 same way.

25
26 Board Counsel Guillemette asked if it was developed by the Florida Department of Health in conjunction with NBEO.

27
28 Dr. Underhill stated that the Board approved consultants in the past.

29
30 Board Counsel Guillemette asked if NBEO will work with board-appointed consultants.

31
32 Dr. Bahrayni stated that the Department has a list of approved consultants, and they can provide the list to the board.

33
34 Board Counsel Guillemette stated that this is not in rule.

35
36 Dr. Underhill asked if the rule has to be changed and open for development.

37
38 Board Counsel stated that it is noticed for discussion; they will need to start developing it quickly.
39 She then stated that if we get the language today, the rule process will be shortened.

40
41 Dr. Underhill explained they are short of time; it was motion and second.

42
43 Dr. Kaplan added an addendum to the motion with the intent to change the rule and move forward.

44
45 Dr. Maule seconds the motion.

46
47 Unanimous; motion carries

48
49 Dr. King motion to open rule 64B13-4.001 examination requirements for development and Dr. Kaplan seconded the
50 motion..

51
52 After additional discussion, Dr. Maule motion to delegate the authority of the reports to be approved by Dr. Kaplan, and
53 Dr. King seconded the motion.

54
55 Unanimous; carries

56
57 Dr. Kaplan made a motion to adjourn SK
58

1 Unanimous.

2

3 **General Board Business concluded at 1:31 p.m.**

4

5 The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.